

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau



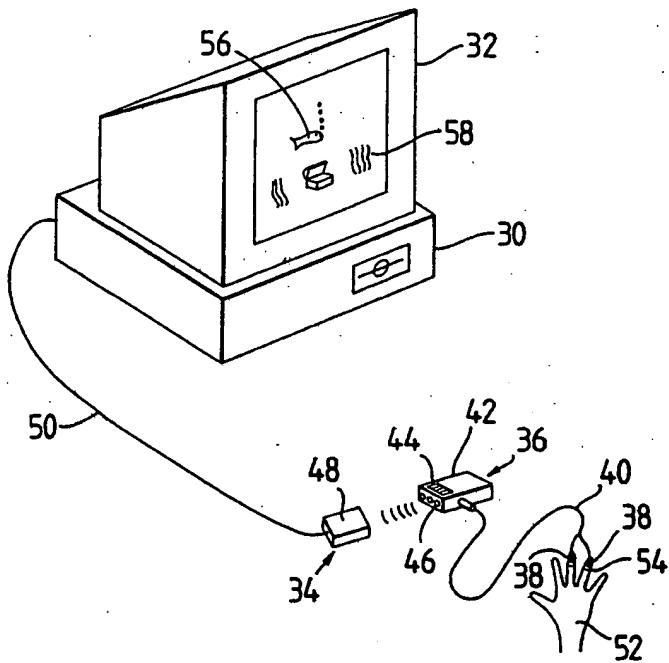
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : <b>A61B 5/16, 5/05, 5/00</b>	A1	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 93/02622</b> (43) International Publication Date: <b>18 February 1993 (18.02.93)</b>
(21) International Application Number: <b>PCT/GB92/01477</b>		(74) Agent: <b>GALLAFENT &amp; CO.; 8 Staple Inn, London WC1V 7QH (GB).</b>
(22) International Filing Date: <b>7 August 1992 (07.08.92)</b>		
(30) Priority data: <b>9117015.9 7 August 1991 (07.08.91) GB</b>		(81) Designated States: <b>BR, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE).</b>
(71) Applicant ( <i>for all designated States except US</i> ): <b>SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS LIMITED [-/VG]; P.O. Box 3151, Road Town, Tortola (VG).</b>		<b>Published</b> <i>With international search report</i> <i>With amended claims and statement</i>
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants ( <i>for US only</i> ): <b>KORENMAN, Ernesto, Marcelo, Dario [GB/GB]; 91 Thirlmere Gardens, Wembly, Middlesex HA9 8RD (GB). ORBACH, Tuvi [IL/GB]; 5 Ravenscroft Avenue, London NW11 0SA (GB). WATSON, Bernard, William [GB/GB]; 60A Meadway, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 1JL (GB).</b>		

(54) Title: **OPERATION OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS**

(57) Abstract

The running of a programme, designed to train the user to control one or more aspects of his or her psycho-physiological state, is controlled by signals representative of a psycho-physiological parameter of the user, e.g. galvanic skin resistance. This may be detected by a sensor unit (36) with two contacts (38) on adjacent fingers (54) of a user. The sensor unit (36) is separate from a receiver unit (34) which is connected to a PC (30) running the programme.



**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia
AU	Australia	FR	France	MR	Mauritania
BB	Barbados	GA	Gabon	MW	Malawi
BE	Belgium	GB	United Kingdom	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	GN	Guinea	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	GR	Greece	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	HU	Hungary	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	IE	Ireland	PT	Portugal
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	RO	Romania
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	RU	Russian Federation
CG	Congo	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CH	Switzerland	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovak Republic
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	SU	Soviet Union
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
DE	Germany	MG	Madagascar	TC	Togo
DK	Denmark	ML	Mali	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain			US	United States of America

- 1 -

OPERATION OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS

This invention relates to the operation of computer systems, particularly, though not exclusively, to computer-assisted learning.

In recent years, the development of so-called "personal computers", or PCs for short, has enabled computing power to be made available to millions of people. In parallel with the development of the hardware, there has been major growth in the amount of software being written. In a PC system, the user operates the PC by first controlling it with the aid of software to be ready to operate in accordance with a desired programme, and then inputting data and producing output data from the PC.

In order to input data, a variety of devices may be used, the most common of which is a keyboard. The most common output device is a visual display unit (VDU) or screen on which the results of operations within the computer may be displayed to be read (if expressed in words) and/or viewed by the user.

Other input may be fed into the computer in known

- 2 -

- fashion. For example, most PCs have one or more communications ports which can send or receive data in the form of digital signals. The data can be received, e.g. from sensor units via appropriate interface
- 5       circuits, or from other PCs. It is known that a very wide variety of sensors may be used, including sensors which sense human physiological parameters, for example blood pressure or electrical currents in the body (in computer-controlled electrocardiogram or electroencephalogram systems). However, up till now, such uses have been mainly confined to those where the computer user has not been the same person as the person under test.
- 10
- 15       An example where such use is not confined to those where the computer user has not been the same person is shown in published International Application WO 86/01317 which discloses using galvanic skin resistance to input data into a computer, and deals specifically with the electronics necessary to overcome the problem of the very wide range of galvanic skin resistances that may be sensed over a period of time and from one user to another.
- 20
- 25       Published International Application WO89/02247 discloses a system whereby a PC owner may monitor his or her heart activity using a simple probe which connects to the input of the computer. A suitable programme must be loaded into the computer in order to enable display or printout representative of the user's cardiac function to be effected. Published European Patent Application 0176220 also discloses using a computer to monitor a user's heart.
- 30

- 3 -

Published International Application WO 91/01699 discloses  
use of a computer and suitable sensor means to offer  
limited mobility and limb movement patients are means of  
operating a computer. United States Patent Specification  
5 4894777 uses sensor means to detect when a computer user  
ceases to concentrate on the subject they should be  
concentrating on, and published UK Patent Specification  
2079992A discloses using a sensor means and microcomputer  
to predict the fertility period in a woman's menstrual  
10 cycle.

In accordance with the present invention, there is  
provided apparatus for testing an aspect of one or more  
users psycho-physiological condition which provides an  
15 information display which may be viewed by the user and  
which at least provides information about, or indication  
of, the user's substantially current psycho-physiological  
condition reflected by that aspect being tested, and  
which may provide one or more stimuli to the user, the  
20 apparatus comprising a computer system, an input device,  
and software capable of interpreting data input from the  
input device and displaying the required information,  
wherein the input device comprises a sensor unit and a  
receiver unit;

25 the sensor unit is adapted to be attached to one or  
more users and periodically to sense at least one psycho-  
physiological condition and to transmit data  
corresponding to the user's psycho-physiological  
condition to the receiver unit;

30 the receiver unit being adapted to input the data  
concerning the user's condition into the computer system;  
the sensor unit and the receiver unit being separate  
from each other.

- 4 -

Such apparatus, providing the programme or software is appropriate, may also be used to enable control of a computer game by way of the user's control of one or more of his or her psycho-physiological parameters. Thus, the 5 precise running of programme may depend on both conscious input from the user and on one or more psycho-physiological parameters of the user.

In using the apparatus, the user interacts with the 10 programmed computer via two channels, the conscious voluntary channel, e.g. mediated via a standard keyboard or via keys on a keypad forming part of the sensor unit and an unconscious involuntary channel, e.g. mediated via a galvanic skin resistance (GSR) sensor and appropriate circuitry to feed a signal representative of GSR to the receiver and thence the computer system. It is known that GSR correlates with arousal/relaxation. Thus, the 15 operation of an interactive learning programme or of a games programme may be mediated not merely by the user's keyboard input but by his or her state of arousal. For example, the speed at which a game is to be played may vary depending on GSR, giving relaxed players an 20 advantage over tense ones. The 'game' may be of a type designed to teach definite behavioural skills. As in other computer games, performance during the game is 25 monitored and quantified, and the dexterity shown in the different tasks is measured, for example, the game may test for and train fast recovery after psychomotor challenge. The user may be made to perform a pre-defined 30 psychomotor, such as time response or co-ordination tasks and should then return immediately to the same state of arousal prior to the challenge. Whether he or she returns to an increased or decreased level of arousal may be reflected by animation refinements, e.g. the shape and

- 5 -

configuration of a display icon. Alternatively, such a programme may teach the user to reach a predetermined level of arousal and remain within a range around that level for a certain period of time, and to detach himself or herself from external stimuli such as computer sound, mind information, etc., remaining at a certain level of arousal.

In order to put the invention into effect, it is necessary to have computer apparatus arranged to provide a visual output under control of a programme, the output being dependent on input via the keyboard and input via a psycho-physiological parameter sensor located to monitor such a parameter of the user. In a preferred form, the sensor unit communicates with the receiver unit connected to the computer input via a non-physical connection, such as an electromagnetic cordless link, thus enabling the user to 'forget' that he or she is interacting with the computer. An infrared transmitter-receiver system is the preferred non-physical connection. Such systems are inexpensive and reliable, and, on account of their use in remote controllers for electrical or electronic apparatus (garage doors, video recorders, CD players), are widely available.

The range of application of the present invention is very wide. One particular valuable field is in computer-assisted learning, where the 'teaching' computer may be able to modify its part in an interactive programme in accordance with the condition of the user. Thus, like a human teacher, the computer may go slower if it senses that its pupil is tired, or showing signs of stress related to incomprehension, or may even judge the user's state as non-receptive and refuse to teach him or her.

further until the appropriate input is received, showing that the user is receptive to teaching again.

5       The programme may be arranged to display to the user an indication of the psycho-physiological parameter measured, thus enabling the user who so wishes to try and consciously moderate or modify their response in a fashion analogous to 'biofeedback' techniques. For example, a teaching programme could be arranged to 10 display as a variable height bar or variable colour spot the arousal state of the user, determined from GSR and/or other measurements.

15      In principle, the display viewed by the user may vary very widely and consist of graphics, animation, wording or combinations of these. The timing of image display will be controlled by the programme. The programme may be one which displays subliminal stimuli via the screen as well as consciously perceptible images.

20      The conscious interaction between computer system and user may also be mediated via one or more standard usually manually controlled devices, e.g. keyboard, mouse, joystick. The unconscious interaction via sensor 25 and receiver may rely on one or more parameters, for example GSR, brain or cardiac electrical signals (as in EEG and ECG monitoring), heart or pulse rate, skin temperature, or others. In all such cases, it is highly desirable that the parameter is sensed and data fed to 30 the computer as a result in an unnoticeable way, so leaving the unconscious input to the computer easily forgotten about so that it does not distract the user from concentrating on interacting with the computer consciously.

- 7 -

Embodiment of apparatus in accordance with the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

5      Figure 1 is a block diagram of apparatus for use in interactive training mediated by psycho-physiological performance;

10     Figures 2a and 2b show front and back views of a sensor for attachment to a person's wrist;

Figures 2c and 2d show front and back views of a hand and wrist with the sensor of Figures 2a and 2b attached;

15     Figure 3 is a block diagram of an infrared biotelemetry transmitter;

Figure 4 is a diagram of portions of the apparatus of Figure 1;

20     Figure 5 is a diagram of an infrared telemetry receiver;

Figure 6 is a schematic view of a particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

25     Figure 7 is an enlarged view of a portion of Figure 6.

In the apparatus of Figure 1, signals representative of a parameter being sensed by a sensor are sent via an infrared link from a sensor and transmitter 1 to a receiver 9.

The sensor comprises an attachable wrist-belt 2 (Figures 2a to 2d) carrying two pads which abut the skin and a

- 8 -

micro-electronic device to detect the galvanic skin resistance (GSR) of the wearer. The device is mounted in a watch-like case 3 and connected electrically to two rubber skin electrodes EL1 and EL2. A stabilised voltage 5 V<sub>ref</sub> (Figure 3) is applied in series with resistors R1 and R2 and the two electrodes EL1 and EL2. When the wearer's skin resistance increases, the voltage between the electrodes and the output voltage V<sub>O</sub> which feeds the input to a high impedance buffer amplifier 4, both rise. 10 A corresponding signal is emitted by infrared emitter diodes to be received by a receiver 9.

Galvanic skin resistance levels can vary over a range of over 100 to 1. The simple input arrangement illustrated 15 in detail in Figure 3 offers two special benefits for GSR measurement. First, the output voltage never saturates, even though its response may be low at extreme resistance values; and second, over a useful resistance range of about 30 to 1, the output voltage responds approximately 20 linearly to the logarithm of skin resistance. These features provide an orderly and stable compression of the large input parameter range, allowing satisfactory transmission within the rather restricted, typically 4 to 1, modulation range of the simple telemetry system used. 25 Resistor R2 limits the minimum output voltage from the chain.

The convenience of this arrangement is valuable in GSR measurement and monitoring in contexts other than 30 carrying out the method of operating a computer system noted above. The input circuit for providing a linear output corresponding substantially to the logarithm of GSR constitutes a further feature of the invention.

- 9 -

- The output voltage V2 from the buffer amplifier feeds the input of the following voltage controlled oscillator 5 section which generates a square wave output of frequency proportional to V2. The oscillator 5 output frequency  
5 can vary from about 100 to 400 Hz corresponding to input extremes of zero and infinite resistance at the electrodes but generally lies within the 150 to 350 Hz range in normal operation.
- 10 The square wave output from the oscillator 5 is fed to the pulse forming stage 6 which generates a rectangular pulse of about 15 microseconds duration following every negative going transition of the oscillator 5 output waveform. This output pulse turns on a transistor driver  
15 stage 7 which delivers a 15 microsecond 0,6 A current pulse to infrared emitting diodes 8.
- 20 The transmitter is powered by a PP3 9V dry battery of about 400 mAH capacity allowing for at least 60 hours of operation before battery replacement.
- 25 The receiver 9 is mounted in a small plastics box to be placed on top of a computer screen 10 (Figure 4). Pulses of infrared radiation emitted by the transmitter 1 are detected by a reverse biased large area PIN photodiode 11 (Figure 5) with integral infrared filter.
- 30 Photocurrent from the detector diode is fed to the input of an infrared pre-amplifier integrated circuit 12. The passband of this pre-amplifier is designed to reject the effects of unwanted infrared radiation, e.g. from sunlight, lighting fixtures and other interfering sources. A rectangular pulse of about 25 microseconds

- 10 -

duration is generated at the pre-amplifier output following the reception of each pulse from the transmitter.

- 5      The pre-amplifier output pulses are fed to the input of a one-chip micro-controller 13 which counts the incoming pulses over a sampling period of about 95 milliseconds and then computes the corresponding pulse frequency to 12-bit precision. This value is then incorporated into
- 10     two data bytes which are serially output from the micro-controller at 9600 bits per second. Additional bits identify the most significant byte and flag the received signal quality.
- 15     A transistor line driver 14 then delivers this signal at the appropriate voltage levels through a receiver output cable 18 to a serial port RS232 of the host computer 10. Output sample rate is 10 per second. Output values sent from the receiver retain the quasi-logarithmic relation to the subject skin resistance. This can be expanded by
- 20     the host computer if desired.

The micro-controller 13 operating programme incorporates several measures to maintain very low noise levels and

25     good output recovery characteristics in spite of the effects of interference and subject movement.

These include the rejection of pulses arriving at irregular intervals and the handling of periods of signal

30     loss which occurs particularly when the pre-amplifier automatic gain control sub-system cannot adapt fast enough to sudden reductions in received pulse intensity following subject movement. Poor reception quality as determined by received pulse regularity and other

- 11 -

criteria applied within the micro-controller programme is signalled by an auxiliary bit within the information sent to the host computer 10 as determined by a clock oscillator 19.

5

The modest power requirements of the receiver are obtained from the host computer's communication port 15, eliminating the need for a separate receiver power supply.

10

The data is received as a standard RS232 input and for data processing 20 (Figure 1) is specially encoded. Meanwhile, possible errors are detected and corrected. Then data is decoded and separated into status and

15

parametric data. The parametric data is fed as an input to the analysing systems, which coordinate with animation, audio and other specialised systems determined by the programme being run in the computer.

20

The analysing system stores the data, which can be used to create various types, graphs and charts. These can be used to profile, compare or monitor the subject's accomplishment on-line or during subsequent analysis sessions.

25

Software for the computer can provide for a variety of psychological testing systems. For example, in an animation system 21 (Figure 1), data is used to manipulate various segments of the computer screen.

30

Changes in input data produce changes in the speed and path of animation. The procession of images encourages the user to continue adding to the metamorphic sequence in a logical and aesthetic way.

- 12 -

The animation system allows for different layers of skill (beginner, novice and expert). This ensures the adaptation of the system to the particular variations of the user. Therefore achievement, i.e. evolution of 5 images, will take place even before expertise is acquired. In an audio system 21 (Figure 1), there can be an option to have an audio response which includes both music and voice. This will also be integrated with the psycho-physiological input.

10 For a tutorial system 22 (Figure 1), tutorial software is provided for a high quality interactive course (courseware). It consists of: i) a graded series of interactive lessons on the subject to be learnt; and ii) 15 a comprehensive database facility which the program searches for giving answers, proposing new questions or entering a specific sub-routine. The lessons may then be presented through window prompts and animated sequences. In advanced models with video interface cards or 20 videodisc players, video sequences can overlay graphics and animation.

The information handled in the tutorial via the database 25 system 23 can be prepared with the help of leading professionals in the appropriate fields. The system therefore provides not only a training facility, but also a counselling mode based on expert knowledge.

30 Figure 6 shows a particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention, comprising a computer 30, a monitor 32, a receiver 34 and a sensor unit 36.

Sensor unit 36 comprises a pair of non-invasive skin contact electrodes 38, connected by wires and a jack plug.

- 13 -

40 to a sensor box 42. Sensor box 42 contains appropriate electronics (not shown) to convert the resistance between the electrodes 38 into a digital format signal. Sensor box 42 also contains switches 44  
5 and infrared transmitters 46.

Receiving unit 34 comprises receiver box 48 and a wire and connector 50. The connector 50 connecting into a data entry port (not shown) on computer 30. This may be  
10 a standard serial communications part. Receiver box 48 contains an infrared receiver (not shown) and electronics appropriate to convert received infrared signals into computer usable form.

15 In use, electrodes 38 are applied to adjacent finger of a user's hand 52 and held in position by way of a band surrounding both electrode and finger 54. Band 54 is preferably of burr fastener material, but may be of any other suitable material. The electronics in sensor box  
20 42, powered by a power source also contained in sensor box 42 (not shown) periodically assess the skin resistance of the user's hand 52 via electrodes 38. The electronics in sensor box 42 convert the readings of galvanic skin resistance into a data form suitable for  
25 transmission, and send the suitable data form to the infrared transmitters for transmission.

The infrared receiver in receiver box 48 receives the transmissions from infrared transmitters 46 and directs  
30 them to the electronics in receiver box 48. There the data is converted into a form suitable for inputting into the computer 30 which is running under the control of an appropriate computer program. In this particular preferred embodiment, the software running on computer 30

- 14 -

- is generating on monitor 32 an image of a fish 56 swimming over a seascape 58. As the user becomes more relaxed, the user's galvanic skin resistance will rise. This will be detected by electrodes 38 and conveyed to the computer via sensor unit 36 and receiver unit 34.
- 5 The software will generate graphics showing the fish swimming from left to right on the screen. As the fish 56 swims further to the right relative to the seascape 58, which scrolls to the left, the software is arranged to change the display so that the fish metamorphoses first into a mermaid then further into a human then an angel then a star. If, during this process, the user becomes less relaxed, so causing his galvanic skin resistance to drop, the fish, or whatever form it is at that time, travels to the left and the seascape scrolls to the right. The relative movement of fish 56 and seascape 58 enable the user to ascertain whether he or she is becoming more or less relaxed.
- 10
- 15
- 20 The software running on computer 30 may do more than simply show pictures of fishes 56 on seascapes 58. Switches 44 on sensor box 42 may be used to exert overall control over the software. For example, buttons 44 might represent an escape button to move the user out of a particular aspect of a program and into a menu, a pair of direction buttons to move around that menu once entered and an enter button to make selections from the menu. Such buttons enable the use of the customary keyboard forming part of the computer system to be dispensed with.
- 25
- 30 It will be obvious that the software running on computer 30 may have to set many different aspects relating to training, testing and assessment of the user.

- 15 -

Psycho-behavioural and Psychometric Test software may be used to programme the computer to provide a computerised testing facility which uses conventional methods of administration and interpretation. In addition, the 5 system facilitates the on-line monitoring of psycho-physiological parameters. This last feature provides a method of detecting psycho-behavioural blockage-points during test completion. The interactive feedback of this information greatly enhances the training schedule.

10 It will be seen that the invention provides for all aspects of learning simultaneously in that it can involve the detection and analysis of both logic and intuition processes; the first by monitoring "voluntary" action and 15 the second by detecting "automatic" output. It uses psycho-physiological measurement principles to operate and interact with software applications by the use of an ergonomically designed sensor while the subject has freedom of movement and safety due to absence of actual 20 contact between the subject and the computer.

- 16 -

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for testing an aspect of one or more users psycho-physiological condition which provides an information display which may be viewed by the user and which at least provides information about, or indication of, the user's substantially current psycho-physiological condition reflected by that aspect being tested, and which may provide one or more stimuli to the user, the apparatus comprising a computer system, an input device, and software capable of interpreting data input from the input device and displaying the required information, wherein the input device comprises a sensor unit and a receiver unit;  
15           the sensor unit is adapted to be attached to one or more users and periodically to sense at least one psycho-physiological condition and to transmit data corresponding to the user's psycho-physiological condition to the receiver unit;
- 20           the receiver unit being adapted to input the data concerning the user's condition into the computer system;           the sensor unit and the receiver unit being separate from each other.
- 25           2. Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the stimuli provided to the user is in the form of a series of instructions directed toward teaching the user how to alter his/her psycho-physiological state and the information displayed to the user shows the user the level of success achieved in altering that state.
- 30           3. Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the information displayed to the user includes an indication of the user's substantially current psycho-physiological

- 17 -

condition; and tutorial information; wherein the software monitors the user's substantially current psycho-physiological condition and determines the tutorial information to be displayed on the basis of that  
5 condition.

4. Apparatus according to Claim 3 wherein the software provides the user with one or more stimuli if the user(s) psycho-physiological condition achieves a predetermined  
10 level.

5. Apparatus according to Claim 3 wherein the software provides the user with one or more stimuli if the user's psycho-physiological condition alters by a predetermined  
15 degree from a predetermined base level.

6. Apparatus according to Claim 5 wherein the predetermined base level is the level of user's psycho-physiological condition at the beginning of the tutorial.  
20

7. Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the information displayed to the user includes an indication of the user's substantially current psycho-physiological condition and an interactive question and answer and  
25 performance testing series wherein the software monitors the correctness of the user's answers and the user's performance and the coincident psycho-physiological condition of the user; and the apparatus will, at the end of the series, determine a correlation between the user's  
30 ability and psycho-physiological condition.

8. Apparatus according to Claim 7 wherein stimuli are provided to influence the psycho-physiological condition of the user whilst the question and answer and

- 18 -

performance series is being completed.

9. Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the information displayed is in the form of a game and the 5 user's progress through the game is determined by his/her psycho-physiological condition.

10. Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the game is such that in the course of the game the user progresses through a series of images, the progress through the 10 images being solely dependent on the users psycho-physiological condition, and the users ability to control that condition.

15. 11. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding Claims, in which the sensor unit is adapted to transmit data to the receiver unit via electromagnetic radiation.

20. 12. Apparatus according to Claim 11 in which the electromagnetic radiation is in the infrared part of the spectrum.

25. 13. Apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 wherein the stimuli are in the form of consciously viewable images, unconsciously viewable subliminal images, words or sounds.

30. 14. Apparatus as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 wherein the aspect of the users psycho-physiological condition to tested and trained is the users Galvanic Skin Resistance (GSR), and the sensor unit comprises non-invasive electrodes for applying to the skin, circuitry appropriate to convert the sensed skin resistances into digital data and means for transmitting that data to the

- 19 -

receiving unit.

15. Computer apparatus according to Claim 14 in which the sensor unit is mounted on a wrist belt furnished with electrodes positioned to lie in contact with the wrist of the user.
16. Computer apparatus according to Claim 15 in which the sensor unit is mounted in a case of a size to lie substantially within the area of the back of the wrist and contains a battery and microelectronic circuitry for forming pulses to be delivered to an infrared emitter diode.
- 15 17. Computer apparatus according to Claim 13 in which the receiver comprises a receiving diode, an infrared pre-amplifier and a micro-controller for converting received signals to a form acceptable to the computer.

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

[received by the International Bureau on 27 January 1993 (27.01.93);  
original claims 1-17 replaced by amended claims 1-15 (4 pages)]

1. Apparatus for testing an aspect of a user's psycho-physiological condition, which apparatus provides an information display which may be viewed by the user and which provides information about, or an indication of, the user's substantially-current psycho-physiological condition being tested, and which may provide one or more stimuli to the user, the apparatus comprising:

a computer system;

a user input device connected to the computer, the computer being programmed to interpret data generated by the input device and to display information derived from the data, in which the input device comprises a sensor unit and a receiver unit, the sensor unit being adapted to be attached to a user to sense at least one psycho-physiological parameter of the user, and to transmit the respective data to the receiver unit, which receiver is adapted to input the data into the computer, characterised in that the sensor unit and the receiver unit are separate from each other and data is sent from the sensor unit to the receiver unit by electromagnetic radiation.

2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the stimuli provided to the user is in the form of a series of instructions directed toward teaching the user how to alter his/her psycho-physiological state, and wherein the information displayed to the user shows the user the level of success achieved in altering that state.

3. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the information displayed to the user includes an indication of the user's substantially current psycho-physiological condition; and tutorial information; wherein the software monitors the user's substantially current psycho-

- 21 -

physiological condition and determines the tutorial information to be displayed on the basis of that condition.

4. Apparatus according to Claim 3 wherein the software provides the user with one or more stimuli if the user's psycho-physiological condition achieves a predetermined level.

5. Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the computer is adapted to provide the user with one or more stimuli if the user's psycho-physiological parameter being monitored alters by a predetermined extent from a predetermined base level, which is the level of the user's respective parameter at the beginning of the period of use.

6. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the information displayed to the user includes an indication of the user's substantially current psycho-physiological condition and an interactive question and answer and performance testing series wherein the software monitors the correctness of the user's answers and the user's performance and the coincident psycho-physiological condition of the user; and the apparatus will, at the end of the series, determine a correlation between the user's ability and psycho-physiological condition.

7. Apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein stimuli are provided to influence the psycho-physiological condition of the user whilst the question and answer and performance series is being completed.

8. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the information displayed is in the form of a game and the user's progress through the game is determined by his/her

- 22 -

psycho-physiological condition.

9. Apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the game is such that in the course of the game the user progresses through a series of images, the progress through the images being solely dependent on the user's psycho-physiological condition, and the user's ability to control that condition.

10. Apparatus according to any preceding Claim, in which the radiation is in the infra-red part of the electromagnetic spectrum.

11. Apparatus according to any preceding Claim, wherein the stimuli are in the form of consciously-viewable images, unconsciously-viewable subliminal images, words or sounds.

12. Apparatus as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the aspect of the user's psycho-physiological condition to be tested and trained is the user's galvanic skin resistance (GSR), and the sensor unit comprises non-invasive electrodes for being applied to the skin, circuitry appropriate to convert the sensed skin resistances into digital data, and means for transmitting those data to the receiver unit.

13. Computer apparatus according to Claim 12, in which the sensor unit is mounted on a wrist belt furnished with electrodes positioned to lie in contact with the wrist of the user.

14. Computer apparatus according to Claim 13, in which the sensor unit is mounted in a case of a size to lie substantially within the area of the back of the wrist and which contains a battery and microelectronic

- 23 -

circuitry for forming pulses to be delivered to an infra-red emitter.

15. Computer apparatus according to Claim 14, in which the receiver comprises a diode, an infra-red pre-amplifier, and a micro-controller for converting received signals to a form acceptable to the computer.

- 24 -

**STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19**

The new main claim in the claims filed herewith consists of the original main claim having had introduced into it the subject-matter of original claim 11 better to distinguish the subject matter if the invention from the disclosures in US-A-4483891 and WO-A-8601317.

It has been found that transmitting data concerning a user's psycho-physiological condition by electromagnetic radiation to the detector associated with the computer allows the user to forget quite quickly that he is being monitored. Thus internal tension in the user, caused by his being fitted with the parameter sensor, declines. Once this initial tension has disappeared over a short period as he gets used to wearing e.g. a wrist band, and ceases to think about the reasons why he is wearing it, the data received by the computer correspond more accurately to the parameter being monitored.

1/5

FIG. 1.

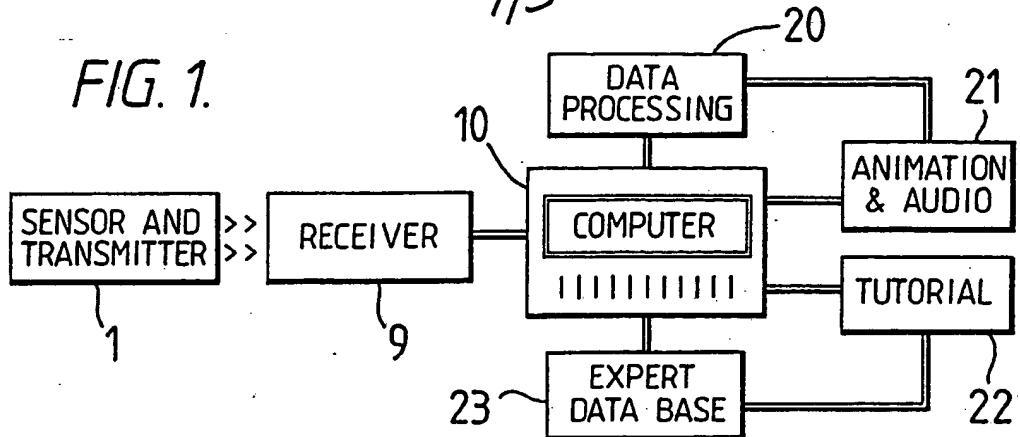


FIG. 2a

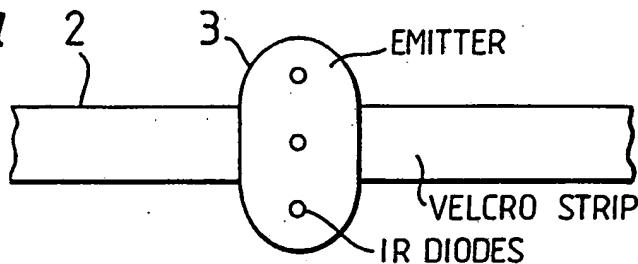


FIG. 2b

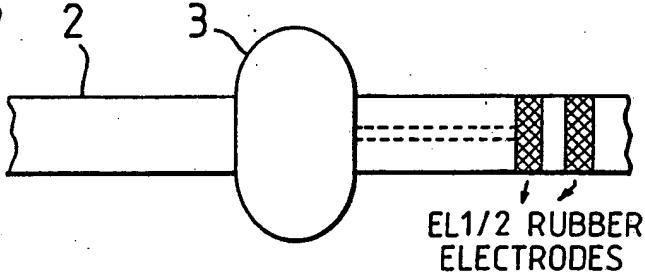


FIG. 2c

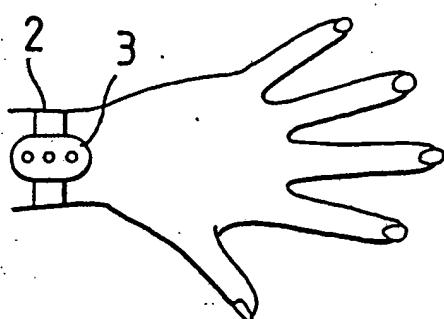
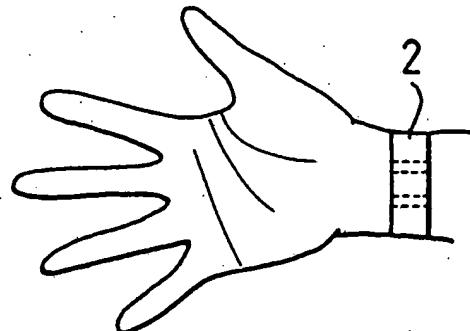


FIG. 2d



215

FIG. 3.

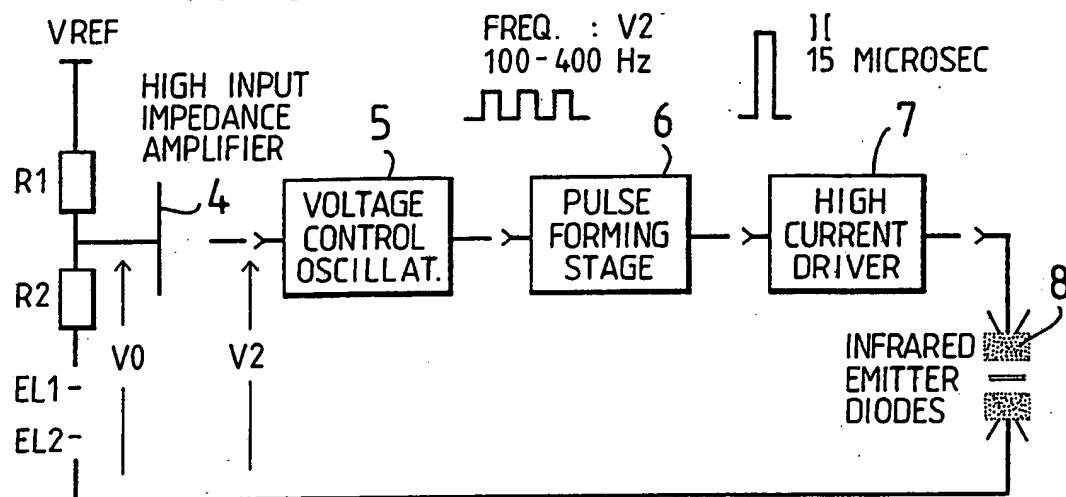
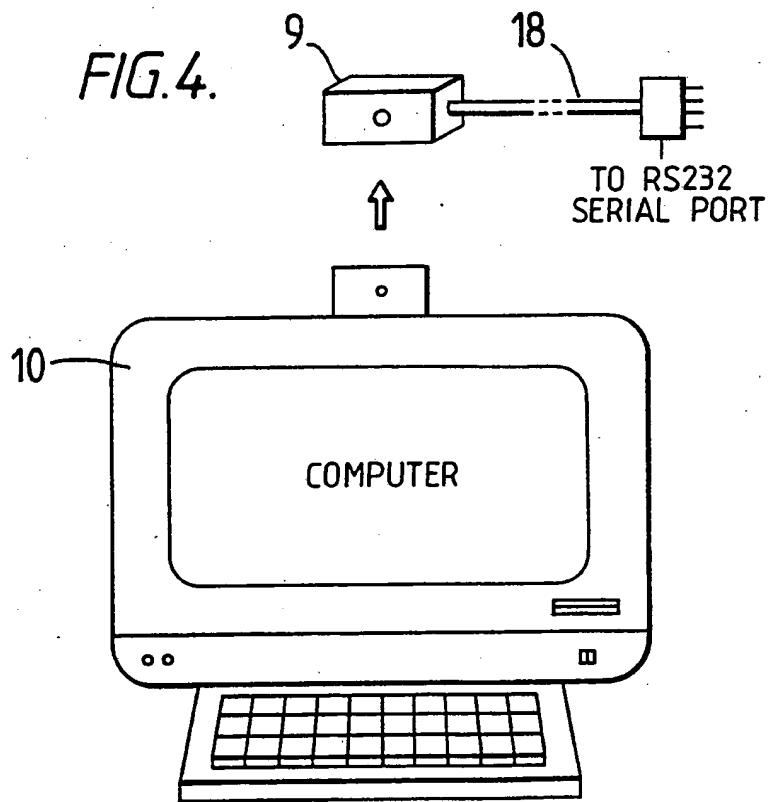
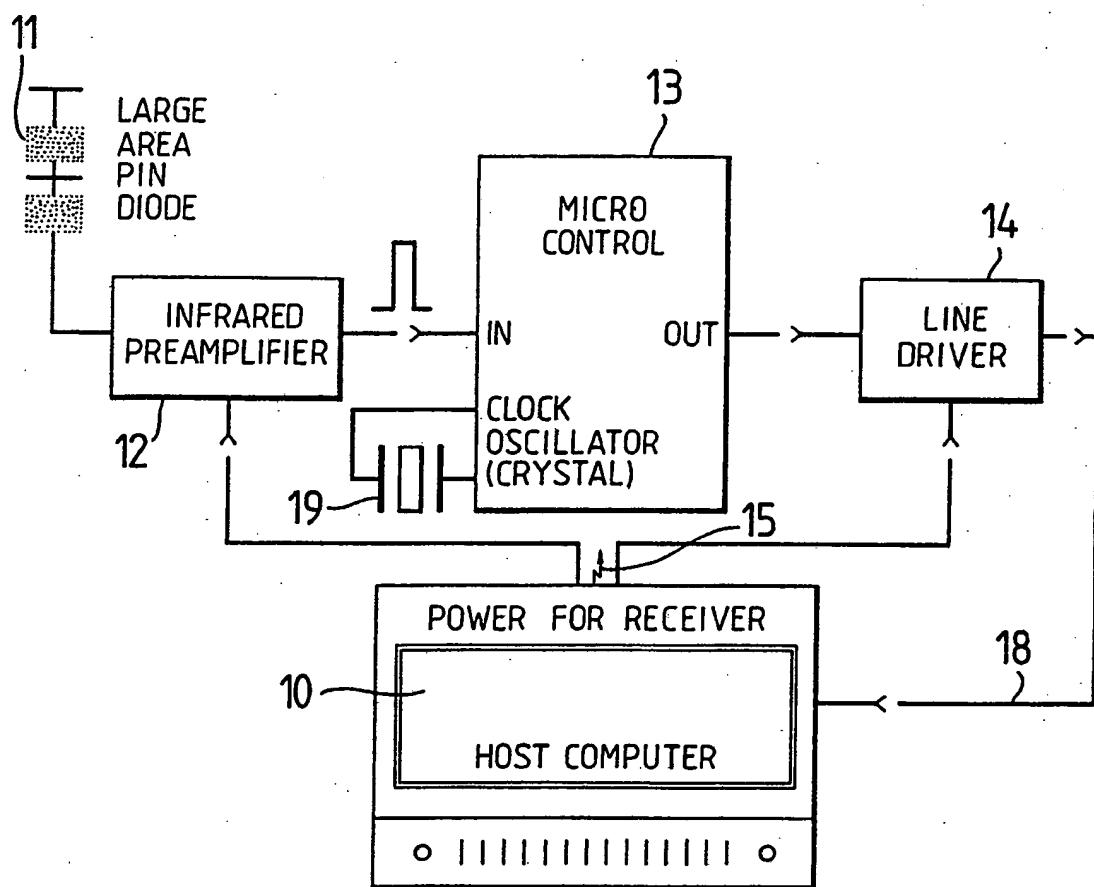


FIG. 4.



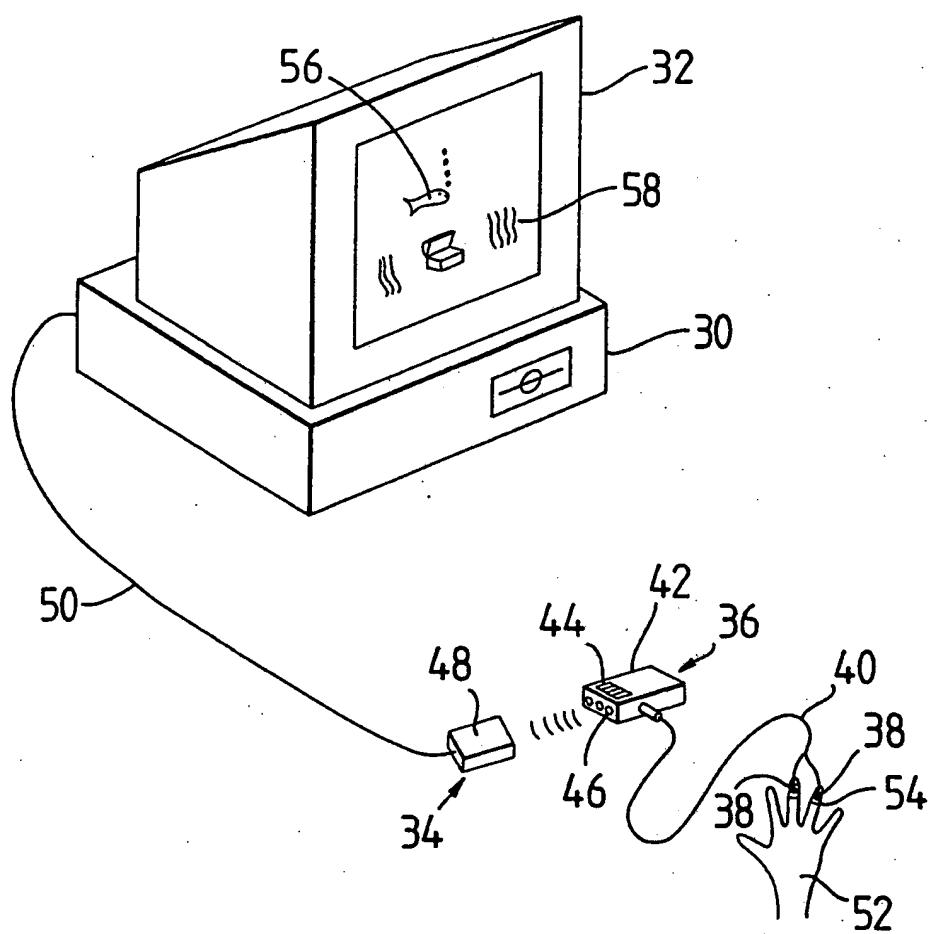
3/5

FIG.5.



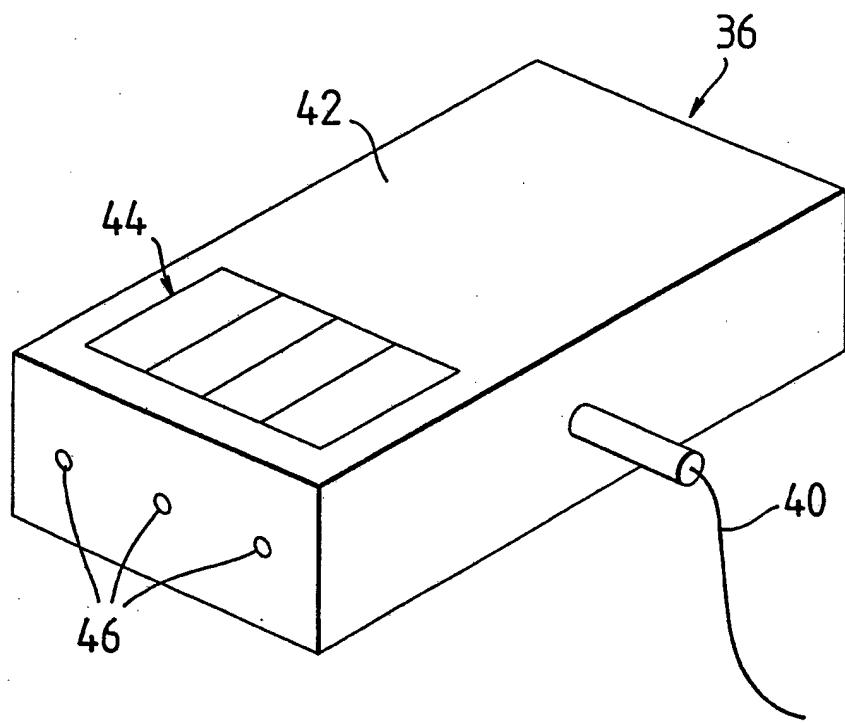
4/5

FIG. 6.



5/5

FIG. 7.



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 92/01477

International Application No.

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all)<sup>6</sup>

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

Int.C1. 5 A61B5/16; A61B5/05; A61B5/00

## II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched<sup>7</sup>

Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.C1. 5	A61B ;	G06K

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation  
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched<sup>8</sup>III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT<sup>9</sup>

Category <sup>10</sup>	Citation of Document, <sup>11</sup> with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>12</sup>	Relevant to Claim No. <sup>13</sup>
X	US,A,4 683 891 (V. CORNELLIER ET AL.). 4 August 1987	1-4,7-9
A	see column 2, line 62 - column 3, line 22 see column 4, line 10 - column 8, line 29 ---	10,13,14
X	WO,A,8 601 317 (BEHAVIORAL ENGINEERING) 27 February 1986 cited in the application	1,2,4,5
X	see page 5, line 31 - page 18, line 20 ---	9,10,14
Y	US,A,3 870 034 (J.M. JAMES) 11 March 1975	1,11-14
A	see column 2, line 28 - column 4, line 14	4,5,15
A	see figures 1-5 ---	16
Y	US,A,4 150 284 (G. TRENKLER ET AL.L) 17 April 1979	1,11-14
A	see column 4, line 50 - line 60; figure 1	7,9,10
A	see column 6, line 20 - line 54; figure 7 -----	17

<sup>10</sup> Special categories of cited documents:

- <sup>"A"</sup> document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- <sup>"E"</sup> earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- <sup>"L"</sup> document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- <sup>"O"</sup> document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- <sup>"P"</sup> document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

<sup>"T"</sup> later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention<sup>"X"</sup> document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step<sup>"Y"</sup> document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art<sup>"&"</sup> document member of the same patent family

## IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search

28 OCTOBER 1992

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report

25. 11. 92

International Searching Authority

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Signature of Authorized Officer

RIEB K.D.



ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. GB 9201477  
SA 63376

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information. 28/10/92

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
US-A-4683891	04-08-87	None			
WO-A-8601317	27-02-86	US-A- 5016213 AU-A- 4729185 EP-A- 0190330	14-05-91 07-03-86 13-08-86		
US-A-3870034	11-03-75	None			
US-A-4150284	17-04-79	DE-A- 2818930 FR-A,B 2401565 GB-A- 1595821 JP-A- 53135665	02-11-78 23-03-79 19-08-81 27-11-78		